

First Baptist Church Hillsborough

201 W. King Street, Hillsborough, NC 27278



The Messenger December 2025

Sundays

9:00 am Community Grounds
9:45 am Bible Fellowship Groups
11:00 am Worship

In-Person Worship Attendance

November 2	112
November 9	98
November 16	115
November 23	105
November 30	113

YouTube Views

138
89
82
85
59

Bible Fellowship Group Attendance

November 2	66
November 9	63
November 16	70
November 23	67
November 30	64

For any ministerial needs, please contact the Church Office or any Deacon.

Interim Pastor: Dr. Jerry Harper
Administrative Assistant

Crystal Swisher
office@fbchillsborough.org
(919)732-8174

Music Director
Aaron Pickard

FBC Website
www.fbchillsborough.org

[Click HERE](#) to
Give Online



WATCH US GROW IN CHRIST!

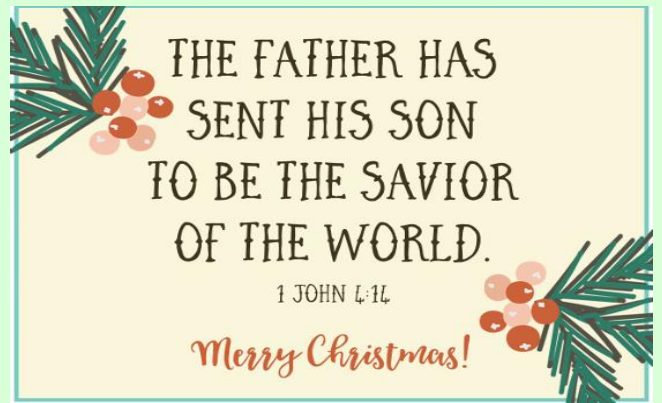
MONTHLY SCRIPTURE FOR KINGDOM KIDS

Parents & family members, please help your child learn these verses and look for them in their Bible. They will have the opportunity to recite the verse for a "punch" on their card!

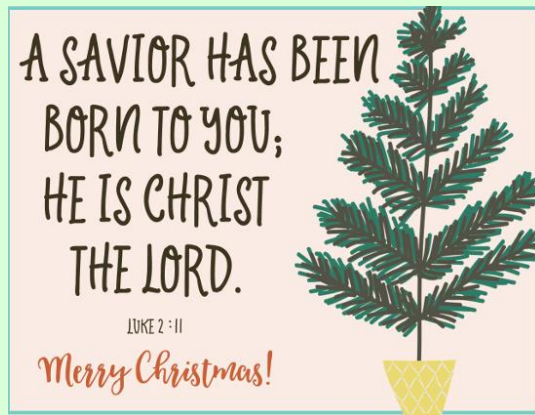
December 7



December 14



December 21



December 28



Thank you for allowing us to serve your children!



In the Words of a Pastor

From the Harp:

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and did some Thanks-living! It is always a great time of the year because it's a time when families get together.

Thanksgiving is also the beginning of the Christmas season, with the first Sunday of Advent falling on Nov. 30th. As we begin this season of Advent, we begin to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus. As we take this season seriously, we come ever closer to Jesus and His love for all people anywhere and everywhere in the world.

Hopefully we will see you at Church at some service during this Advent, but just in case I don't see you in church, may God bless you with a very merry and Christ-filled Christmas.

Pastor Jerry

*Dr. Jerry Harper
Interim Pastor
FBC Hillsborough*



Upcoming Events for December 2025

FBC Ladies

Saturday, December 6 – 9:00 a.m. thru 11:00 a.m.



*Christmas Brunch
Blake Room - FBC*

*Come Join the FBC Ladies for Some
Laughter, Love and Light!*



Advent Reflections: Waiting with Hope, Joy, and Peace



Advent Reflections: Waiting with Hope, Joy, and Peace

You're Invited to Gatherings to Move Our Hearts to the Themes of Advent - Advent began this year on **November 30, 2025** — Retail Christmas is already well underway. The stores have certainly been hinting for you to spend money!) Advent is the beginning of the Church calendar each year. This beautiful season invites us into **expectation, celebration, and hope** as we remember the birth of the promised Messiah and look toward the fulfillment of Christ's work among us.

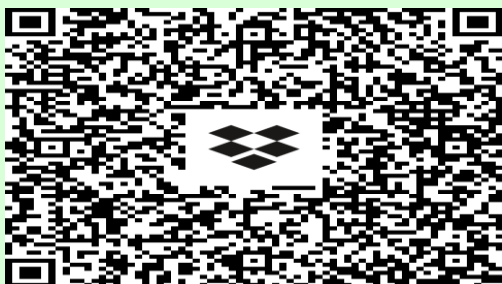
Each year, the **Advent wreath** helps us mark this journey — its candles representing **Hope, Peace, Joy, Love**. And finally, on Christmas, the **Christ Candle** itself. This year, we would like to take time together to reflect more deeply on these themes.

You are warmly invited to join us for a **Zoom Discussion Group** on three (3) Saturdays during Advent — **December 6, 13, and 20, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. (EST)**. For an hour each week, we will explore thoughtful readings on Advent's themes: **Hope and Anticipation, Joy and Lament, and Peace and Faith**.

Come as you're able, bring your coffee, tea, granola, a Danish or an egg and sausage biscuit (we are a nice variety of folks as seen in food choices), and we share in a conversation preparing our hearts for Christmas. Bring a friend as this invite is for all.

We hope you will join us for this meaningful Advent journey together. The information and materials you need are at this link (URL or QR). Here is the URL link to view the information:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/xph4lvzgdaqx96v03vkhj/Final-INFORMATION-ADVENT-READING-AND-DISCUSSION-2025.docx?rlkey=xmnugytd9fmz0yg9ma2ou8qow&st=w0ccg6fz&dl=0> OR - the QR code to view the information.



E-mail Stephen Durham if you have any questions about participating! Embrace the Peace of Christ as we move towards Christmas.

Stephen Durham -stephen_m_durham@yahoo.com

MEN'S BREAKFAST



MEN'S MINISTRY
Men's Prayer Breakfast
Sunday, December 21, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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"Welcome House" - Continued Prayer Request for New Use

As we continue to seek God's guidance during this season and His will for use of our Parsonage home (formerly Welcome House Hillsborough), we ask for your prayers and input as to how it can be used to serve our community and how we can be the hands and feet of Jesus. Please share your thoughts and ideas with your deacons.





In today's world the gift of PRESENCE is hard to come by. Life is digitally driven and increasingly impersonal as we rely more and more on technology for everyday transactions and essential tasks. Time being present with one another is undervalued in our current culture.

When the holidays come, it is closeness and connection that we seek to make them meaningful. But we are out of practice and, for some who struggle with relationships, the face time can be insincere at best.

But Christmas reminds us that God chose to come to us face to face in Jesus, with compassion and sacrifice for those He loves. He came to bestow eternal access to His power and presence in our lives.

It is this incarnational ministry that leaders of Young Life Ministries seek to emulate by regularly connecting with middle school and high school students week in and week out in Hillsborough. They are a presence that cares and are accessible, who knows kids by name and entreats them to spend time together in a transformational relationship with Jesus and His followers.

Here are a few ways that you can also be present with leaders and kids in this ministry at FBCH:

- Pray that kids will respond with openness and curiosity for the Gospel and invite friends to spend time with the leaders. Pray also for student sign-ups for the upcoming Young Life Weekend Camp (January 23-25) and Wyld Life Weekend Camp (February 13-15) where kids unplug and hang out with leaders with no distractions.
- Bring a breakfast snack to Community Grounds for Wyld Life Bible study on Monday mornings at 7:15 a.m.
- Join a mail list of supporters who help with supplies for area Young Life and Wyld Life events.
- Contact Anne Brinkley (919-636-8136) to learn more about the Hillsborough Young Life Geo Committee's role in the local ministry.





The Shed-o-Plenty is Still in Need!

Thank you for your continued contributions to The Shed. It continues to meet the needs of families in Orange County—through large items and small!

Thank you again to all for your support and for the work of the Kingdom!

Below is a current list of the most needed items.

NOTE: Other items needed to help set up a small apartment are still welcomed.

Currently most needed:

- ⇒ Dressers or chests of drawers
- ⇒ Full and twin bed frames (or platforms)
- ⇒ Living room furniture (for smaller apartments)
- ⇒ Small kitchen tables and chairs
- ⇒ Twin comforters or spreads
- ⇒ Twin sheets
- ⇒ Drinking glasses (for families with children)

Contact Sharon Richardson if you have questions about donations or ways to assist the families that use the Shed.
919- 636-1699 or sharonr3711@gmail.com

I wanted to share how the shed continues to assist our community. Thank you so much!

From an Alliance for Success case worker



MINISTRY PLACEMENT COMMITTEE

MINISTRY PLACEMENT. . .Attention Chairpersons. The end of the year is here! It is a great time to review your Committee. As a reminder – we are getting new people in the Church. Remember that they may want to serve as well. Many times, they are unfamiliar with who, what and where, so please invite! All service is appreciated and **THANK YOU** to each Chairperson and your team members.

Please contact **BONNIE MURPHY** with any changes in your committee (by text or email) before the first of 2026. Thank you!

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE. **CAROLYN COMPTON** and **BONNIE MURPHY** wish to extend a big **THANK YOU** to the members of the Ordinance Committee. Each of you serve with faithfulness and respect. It is an important ministry – preparing the elements for our monthly communion.

As we approach the end of 2025, it is now time to decide if you prefer to remain a member of this Committee. Please email or text **BONNIE MURPHY** should you choose to serve elsewhere.

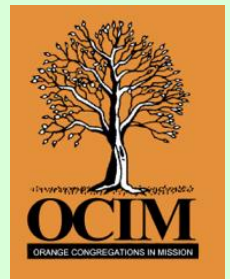
THANK YOU to the Deacons who serve communion to our home bound families. It is pleasing to know that they are able to receive communion. We ask that you make sure all items are cleaned and back in Container No. 1. If we can help in any way, please advise. Thank you.

Please contact **BONNIE MURPHY** at 315-709-1150.

OCIM - ORANGE CONGREGATIONS IN MISSION

THANK YOU FBCH for your dedication in bringing food items in for those in need. We ask for continued support for this valued and necessary community ministry.

OCIM...The Christmas season is upon us now. Families and other individuals need our vital support and extra effort to supply these food items. Each month, we supply **OCIM** with some items.



*******LET'S GIVE BEYOND NOW!!*******

BOB MADDRY faithfully delivers the collected food items to **OCIM**. Their record-keeping is done by poundage. Let's look forward to what 2025 yielded as we move into the new year.

LET'S DO MORE IN DECEMBER! Thank you **SO MUCH** for your faithfulness in helping those in need. You may place food items in the blue barrels in the downstairs hallway **OR** use the baskets in the Bible Fellowship rooms. Items needed on the regular include cereal, peanut butter, canned vegetables, soups and canned fruits. Also, toothbrushes, bar soap and deodorants, hygiene products are welcomed.

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE WH ARRE HUNGRY EVERY DAY – NOT JUST ON HOLIDAYS! Thank you!

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FINANCE NEWS: Looking Ahead Toward Our 2026 Budget

Reminder from Finance: 2026 Budget Information Sessions

Please remember to mark your calendars now! Finance hosted two (2) identical open information sessions in November 2025 to present the proposed 2026 budget. We hope you were able to attend either session.

If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas about the 2026 budget or about the process, please feel free to contact SUE BULFIN at 919-605-5645 or srbulfin@gmail.com.



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SENIORS IN OUR COMMUNITY

What fun we had in November visiting Adorable Senior Living (Villines Rest Home*). We played bingo and helped residents color pictures to decorate their bedroom doors. We closed our time together singing a few songs. What a great day full of God's blessings!

Anyone who would like to join us at **2:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday** of the month for a Hymn Sing at **Brookshire**, we invite you to do so. This is held in the dining hall for a time of singing and sharing with the residents. We have printed song lyrics available each time. Contact **DEE JACOLA** at 919-632-7091 (text or call) or dhjackola@gmail.com. It is certainly an uplifting time for all.

Check the list below for a few locations of nursing homes and senior living facilities for a visit. Also, remember our seniors still in their homes. Addresses are in our FBC online directory.

Listen to your heart and see if God is calling you to share time with a Senior. Contact **JAN IRWIN** with any questions, ideas or prayers. Thank you for serving in any way that God calls you.

<u>Parkview Health/Rehab Center</u> 1716 Legion Road Chapel Hill, NC 27517		<u>Brookdale</u> 4434 Ben Franklin Blvd. Durham, NC 27704	Nancy Baity/Room 117 Joyce Rippey/Room 200
<u>Adorable Senior Living</u> (*Villines Rest Home) 401 W. Queen St. Hillsborough, NC 27278	All Residents	<u>Croasdaile Village</u> 2600 Croasdaile Pkwy/Pavillion Durham, NC 27705	
<u>Mebane Ridge Nursing Home</u> 1999 S NC Hwy 119 Mebane, NC 27302	Joyce Bateman (Memory Care Unit)	<u>Durham Nursing & Rehab</u> 411 S. LaSalle St. Durham, NC 27705	
<u>Terra Bella (Carillon)</u> 1911 Orange Grove Road Hillsborough, NC 27278	Virginia "Pauline" McClard – Rm A18		Mark Bullock
<u>Hillcrest Rehab and Asst Living</u> 1417 W. Pettigrew St. Durham, NC 27705			
<u>Rose Manor Rehab</u> <u>4230 N. Roxboro Rd. Rm 51</u> <u>Durham, NC</u>			



PRAYER REQUESTS and CONCERNS

If you have an ongoing prayer concern this month or an urgent prayer request and would like to share it with the FBC Hillsborough congregation and/or post it in our monthly Messenger, please contact the office by telephone at (919) 732-8174 or via e-mail at office@fbchillsborough.org so that it may be added to a Prayer List.

The regular Church Office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. If you call outside of office hours, please leave a message so that your concern may be addressed when the office re-opens.



Upcoming Opportunities

Women's Christmas Brunch – December 6th from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. in the Blake Room (Fellowship Hall). Enjoy this special time with friends and other FBC members. A lot of work has gone into making this a very special and festive time! Thank you to all who participate!

Orange Correctional Center – Collection of items and coordination of people with **STEPHEN DURHAM** who have offered invitations and information about this special December ministry. Requests for individuals to assist with this ministry have been echoed throughout the Church so that anyone wishing to participate in this ministry may coordinate with **STEPHEN DURHAM**.

Angel Tree Ministry – Barn-Dor class participated in organizing this ministry in 2024 and has stepped up once again in 2025. The Angel Tree is located on the 2nd Floor as you exit the elevator. Please contact Danette Clark for additional information. The 2025 Angel Tree Ministry will focus on: 1) Orange Prison Ministry; 2) Re-entry House of Hillsborough; 3) Baby Formula and Diaper Donation for Orange County Social Services; 4) Brookshire/Peak Resources; and 5) any struggling FBCH Members (Wal-Mart Gift Cards). The donations are due by December 21st.



December 2025 Birthdays



12-02-25 Rachel Gordon	12-16-25 Mandy Parker
12-04-25 Emmalee Byun	12-17-25 Jesse Wilkins
12-05-25 Brooklyn Hux	12-17-25 Lynn Roberts
12-07-25 Michelle Byun	12-20-25 Chris Staley
12-08-25 Trey Ellis	12-21-25 Dylan Hall
12-08-25 Jack Kimball	12-22-25 Charlie Ray
12-08-25 Jennifer Wilkins	12-22-25 Anne Brinkley
12-09-25 Lauren Wicker	12-24-25 Sue Bulfin
12-09-25 Caleb Parker	12-26-25 Karen Chapman
12-13-25 William Rice	
12-14-25 Ryan Cassada	

